

The Home Forum

1 This floating object was the subject of a recording that sold more than a million copies. Sung by Muppet creator Jim Henson, with music and lyrics by writer/poet Jeff Moss, one line is: '... joy of joys, when I squeeze you, you make noise.'

11 The kid version of this artist's tool is 100 years old this year. At first there were only eight kinds, and you could buy a set of them for a nickel. Today there are more than 100 varieties, including glitter and glow-in-the dark types.

10 You might think its name derives from its leonine topknot, but you'd be wrong. The English name comes from a French phrase meaning 'tooth of the lion,' which refers to the plant's jagged-edge leaves.

9 The first red-and-green version of the invention to which this belongs appeared outside London's House of Commons in 1868. Detroit policeman William Potts's improved model added this third color to the device about 1920.

8 This egg-shaped citrus (above) from Southeast Asia arrived in China in 1900 BC, but it didn't reach Europe until the Middle Ages. It can cause your mouth to pucker – or an owner's teeth to gnash, if his new car turns out to be one of these.

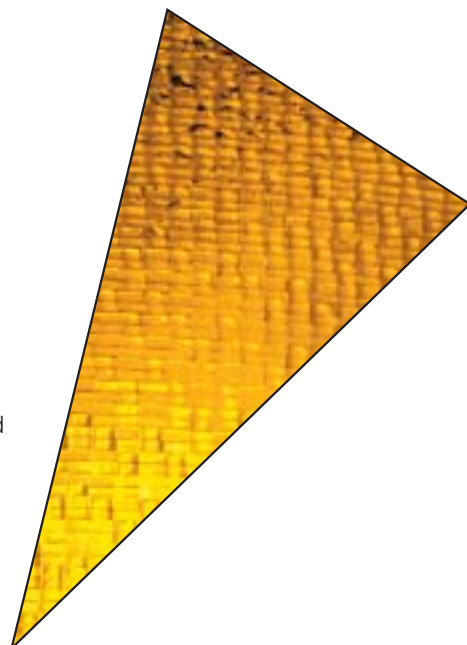
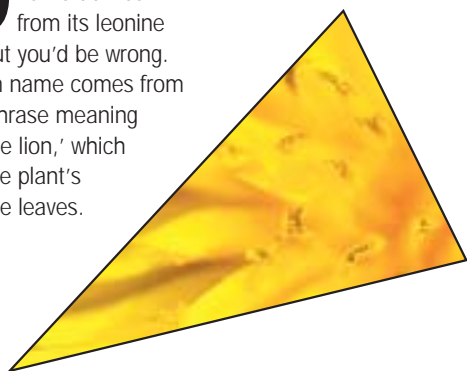
7 Another way to describe this item might be 'angry perambulation indicator.' But it's much friendlier than that in its intent, alerting those using one form of transportation to look out for those employing a much slower-paced way of getting from here to there.

2 It is fitting that the first widespread use of these safety markings occurred in Detroit – perhaps as early as 1911. Today, tiny glass beads have been added to the color to reflect light and make them easier to see.

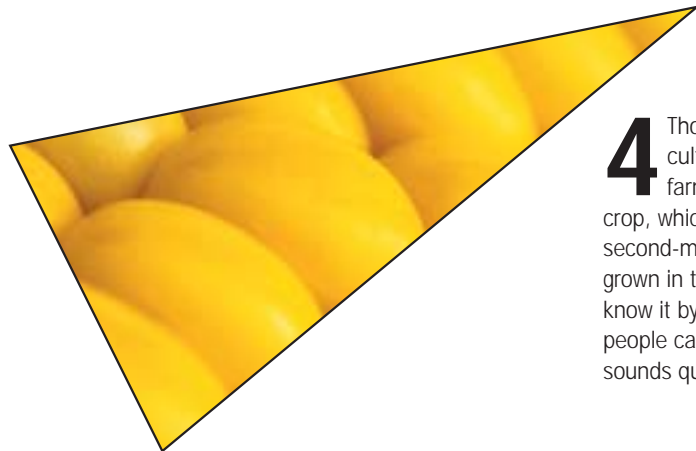
Mellow yellow



The bright spring sun reminded us that many everyday objects have a lemony hue, too. We've gathered some of them here. Can you tell what they are? (Answers on page 23.)

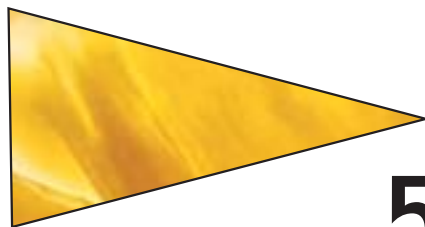


3 These vehicles (about 435,000 of them are in use in the United States today) used to be any old color – until 1939. That's when a national color was chosen to make them more visible and widely recognizable.

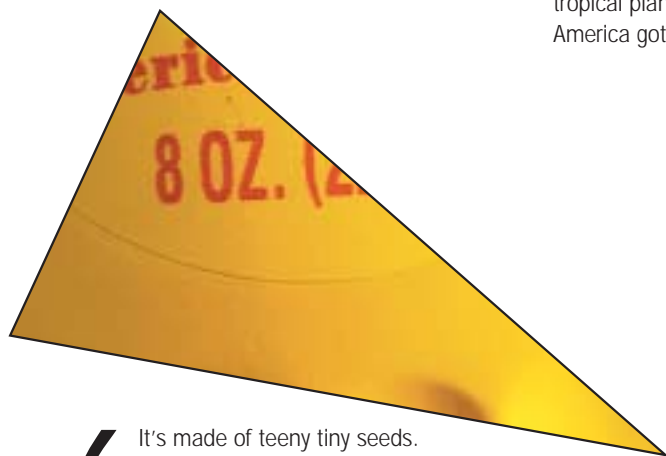


Photos by John Nordell – Staff

4 Thousands of years of cultivation by early farmers resulted in this crop, which today is the second-most important grain grown in the world. Americans know it by one name, but most people call it something that sounds quite different.



5 It's not from a conifer, nor is it of the genus *Malus*. But Christopher Columbus thought it looked like a giant pine cone, so that's how this tropical plant from South America got its name.



6 It's made of teeny tiny seeds. And while they may be the 'least of all seeds' (as the Bible says), they make the greatest of all frankfurter condiments – at least to some people.

ANSWERS
 (1) Rubber duck. Henson sang "Rubber Duckie" as Ernie.
 (2) Highway lane markings. A double-yellow line denotes a "no passing" zone. (3) School bus. The uniform color also made buses cheaper, since manufacturers charged extra for special paint. (4) Corn, or maize (from the Taino word). (5) Pineapple. (6) Mustard. Makers often brighten the color with turmeric powder, a natural dye. (7) Crosswalk sign. (8) Lemon. A defective car may be called a 'lemon.' (9) Yellow traffic light. (10) Dandelion. In French, it's called 'dent de lion.' (11) Crayon. The first box of Crayolas were black, brown, blue, red, purple, orange, yellow, and green.

Don't forget to enter our **'Design an Alien' Contest!** For details, see the May 13 Monitor (pages 18-19) or go to: www.csmonitor.com/alien

TODAY'S ARTICLE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Bringing a spiritual perspective to daily life

The flexibility and stillness of home

A LONG-TIME NEIGHBOR, widowed earlier this year, has a "For Sale" sign up. Another family's banner announces, "It's a boy!" Our son is thinking about putting up garage sale signs. He's moving to the opposite coast, and he's hinting that wedding bells may be in his plans.

With the many changes I've experienced over the years, I know the mixture of anxiety and excitement a move or a new relationship can bring. I understand when my son talks about his fears. But when he asked me for advice, I decided to set aside some time to pray.

So I go for a walk along a trail that threads in and out of a stand of oaks, following a brook.

I know from experience that telling my son what to do – or not do – isn't what he needs.

But what should I say? Listening to the water in the stream, I think back. When I was a small child, my family was forced to live in a motel for several months. My dad had been transferred to a new job, and we'd left before our house sold. Arriving in the new city, my parents discovered they couldn't afford new housing while still paying the old mortgage. The house didn't sell.

My parents were worried, so I worried, too. I remember listening to them talk when they thought I was asleep. Dad asked, "What are we going to do?" I've clung to my mother's answer ever since.

She said, "We're going to do what we always do. You're going to work, and I'm going to take care of the girls. We're going to go to church. We're going to make new friends. We're going to explore and find interesting things to see and do. We're going to read the Bible every morning, and we're going to pray every spare minute. But most of all, we're going to trust God."

And in the dark, hearing Mother's voice, my little-girl heart found peaceful stillness. I knew how to pray, and I knew God loved us. I fell asleep.

Eventually, all of our needs were met when my parents realized they needed to be open to new possibilities. We didn't sell our house but traded it for a

mobile home, which came in handy for the 12 moves we made in the next four years. And with every move, we followed the same stable course: family, church, work, and school. And lots of prayer.

It's a lesson I've never forgotten, because with all that moving, I came to understand that the stillness and peace of home is something we take with us, not necessarily something we leave and try to find over and over again in new places.

I love to think of the quality of stillness in relation to finding a place to feel at home. Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of this newspaper, wrote: "Certain moods of mind find an indefinable pleasure in stillness, soft, silent as the storm's sudden hush; for nature's stillness is voiced with a hum of harmony, the gentle murmur of early morn, the evening's closing vespers, and lyre of bird and brooklet" ("Christian Science versus Pantheism," pg. 3).

Isn't this what we all need in a home – harmony, safety, and beauty – whether that home is a motel or a mansion, whether we're married or single, with or without family?

I look at the foliage naturally responding to wind, season, and rainfall, and I realize that human homes, to be secure, must include flexibility, as well as stability.

My prayer is answered.

I'll tell my son of my mother's commitment to stability and joy in a time of uprootedness and fear. I'll encourage him to pray and then be flexible enough to listen to God's answer, even if it means following an unexpected path.

And my neighbors? I include them in my prayers, too, grateful that, no matter what changes may come, God has already prepared a place for us all in the stillness of His presence.

My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Isaiah 32:18

The stillness of home is something we take with us, not something we leave and try to find in a new place.

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